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COUNTRY USSR

SUBJECT Background of Beria's Trial

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Many more government and party officials are involved in the Beria trial than are mentioned in the communiqué.
2. Those mentioned in the indictment may be divided into two groups:
 - a. V. N. Merkulov, V. M. Kobulov and A. N. Vlodzimirsky. The last used to co-operate with Beria in collecting evidence (on Stalin's orders) on all leading government and Party officials. This compromising material was found, after Stalin's death, in the files of Stalin's confidential secretary, Poskrebyshev, who disappeared after his master's death. The perusal of these documents took some time; that is why Merkulov and Vlodzimirsky were arrested about three months after Beria's ouster.
 - b. V. G. Dekanosov, A. G. Goglidze (both from Georgia), Pavel Meshnik from the Ukraine, as well as many others who are not named, are involved within the "bourgeois nationalist plot", or in a "conspiracy to enable Beria and his friends to hide and then to escape abroad." The recent purge in Armenia (reported in the "New York Times" without explaining its causes) is connected with the second group.
3. From the beginning, Beria did his utmost to flatter Malenkov, and to draw him into a partnership to gather the whole power of state into their hands. The material collected in Stalin's private secretariat was to be used for this purpose. Malenkov, aided by the army, decided that he would not go along, and the whole affair turned against Beria.
4. A similar situation arose under Yezhov, when it was discovered that he had collected incriminating material against Voroshilov, Molotov and other top Soviet leaders.

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